

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-27 and add claims 28-81 in accordance with the following list showing the current status of all claims in the application.

Claims 1-27 (Canceled)

28. (New) A method for enabling a user to design and then preview a multi-component assembled document, said method comprising:

- (a) providing a user interface that permits substantially arbitrary selection and arrangement of a variety of different physical assembly components for manufacturing an assembled document, thereby allowing a user to custom-design the assembled document;
- (b) inputting the custom-design information via the user interface;
- (c) obtaining digital images of the physical assembly components specified in the custom-design information, at least to the extent that said digital images are needed to provide a desired view of the assembled document;
- (d) generating an image of the assembled document by combining the obtained digital images in a manner so as to simulate the desired view of the assembled document if the assembled document were to be physically produced according to the custom-design information; and
- (e) causing the image of the assembled document to be displayed.

29. (New) A method according to claim 28, further comprising a step of responding to an edit command after the image has been displayed in step (e), by allowing a user to modify at least some of the custom-design information input in step (b).

30. (New) A method according to claim 29, further comprising a step of generating and displaying a new image of the assembled document based on the modified custom-design information.

31. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the user interface permits the user to custom-design at least one of the physical assembly components as a set of printed-page images that have been generated using content from a source file provided by the user via the user interface.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31, wherein the user interface permits the user to select a medium type for the printed-page images.

33. (New) A method according to claim 31, wherein the user interface provides the user with an ability to designate only a portion of the source file for generating the set of printed-page images.

34. (New) A method according to claim 28, further comprising a step of responding to a user command selecting a different portion of the assembled document by obtaining and displaying a new image which simulates an appearance of said different portion of the assembled document.

35. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the user command is an instruction to turn a single page.

36. (New) A method according to claim 34, wherein the user command is an instruction to turn to a specified page in the assembled document.

37. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein an object is stored for each physical assembly component, and wherein each object specifies a digital image, as well as other attributes, of its corresponding physical assembly component.

38. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the image is generated in step (d) based upon stored relative position information and stored overlap information

associated with the physical assembly components.

39. (New) A method according to claim 28, further comprising steps of verifying whether it is possible to create an assembled document specified by the custom-design information and outputting an error message if it is not possible.

40. (New) A method according to claim 28, further comprising a step of responding to a command to submit an order for the assembled document by transmitting the custom-design information to a processing facility.

41. (New) A method according to claim 40, wherein the custom-design information is transmitted via an internet connection.

42. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the custom-design information includes where to bind the assembled document.

43. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the custom-design information includes an instruction to fold a page in the assembled document.

44. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the custom-design information specifies a type of physical assembly component, and further comprising a step of automatically selecting a specific physical assembly component based on said type and based on a property of the assembled document, as indicated from the custom-design information.

45. (New) A method according to claim 44, wherein the property is a dimension of the assembled document.

46. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the user interface permits the user to specify an ordered list of at least some of the physical assembly

components, listing an order in which said at least some of the physical assembly components are to appear in the assembled document.

47. (New) A method according to claim 46, wherein the user interface permits the user to alter the order in which said at least some of the physical assembly components are to appear in the assembled document.

48. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein step (a) comprises providing a set of available physical assembly components that include at least two of: a binding, a front cover, a back cover and a tab page.

49. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein step (a) comprises providing a set of available physically assembly components that include sheets of different media types, and wherein the user interface permits the user to substantially arbitrarily insert said sheets of said different media types into the assembled document.

50. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the user interface permits the user to specify custom printing on at least some of the physical assembly components.

51. (New) A method according to claim 50, wherein the custom-design information specifies a tab page and also specifies text to be included on a tab located on the tab page.

52. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the user interface permits the user to select an attribute for at least one of the selected physical assembly components.

53. (New) A method according to claim 52, wherein the attribute is color.

54. (New) A method according to claim 28, wherein the user interface does not permit printing on at least some of the selected physical assembly components.

55. (New) A computer-readable medium encoded with computer-executable process steps for enabling a user to design and then preview a multi-component assembled document, said process steps comprising steps to:

- (a) provide a user interface that permits substantially arbitrary selection and arrangement of a variety of different physical assembly components for manufacturing an assembled document, thereby allowing a user to custom-design the assembled document;

- (b) input the custom-design information via the user interface;

- (c) obtain digital images of the physical assembly components specified in the custom-design information, at least to the extent that said digital images are needed to provide a desired view of the assembled document;

- (d) generate an image of the assembled document by combining the obtained digital images in a manner so as to simulate the desired view of the assembled document if the assembled document were to be physically produced according to the custom-design information; and

- (e) cause the image of the assembled document to be displayed.

56. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, further comprising a step of responding to an edit command after the image has been displayed in step (e), by allowing a user to modify at least some of the custom-design information input in step (b).

57. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 56, further comprising a step of generating and displaying a new image of the assembled document based on the modified custom-design information.

58. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the user interface permits the user to custom-design at least one of the physical assembly components as a set of printed-page images that have been generated using content from a source file provided by the user via the user interface.

59. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 58, wherein the user interface permits the user to select a medium type for the printed-page images.

60. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 58, wherein the user interface provides the user with an ability to designate only a portion of the source file for generating the set of printed-page images.

61. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, further comprising a step of responding to a user command selecting a different portion of the assembled document by obtaining and displaying a new image which simulates an appearance of said different portion of the assembled document.

62. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 61, wherein the user command is an instruction to turn a single page.

63. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 61, wherein the user command is an instruction to turn to a specified page in the assembled document.

64. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein an object is stored for each physical assembly component, and wherein each object specifies a digital image, as well as other attributes, of its corresponding physical assembly component.

65. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the image is generated in step (d) based upon stored relative position information and

stored overlap information associated with the physical assembly components.

66. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, further comprising steps of verifying whether it is possible to create an assembled document specified by the custom-design information and outputting an error message if it is not possible.

67. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, further comprising a step of responding to a command to submit an order for the assembled document by transmitting the custom-design information to a processing facility.

68. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 67, wherein the custom-design information is transmitted via an internet connection.

69. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the custom-design information includes where to bind the assembled document.

70. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the custom-design information includes an instruction to fold a page in the assembled document.

71. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the custom-design information specifies a type of physical assembly component, and further comprising a step of automatically selecting a specific physical assembly component based on said type and based on a property of the assembled document, as indicated from the custom-design information.

72. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 71, wherein the property is a dimension of the assembled document.

73. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the user interface permits the user to specify an ordered list of at least some of the physical assembly components, listing an order in which said at least some of the physical assembly components are to appear in the assembled document.

74. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 73, wherein the user interface permits the user to alter the order in which said at least some of the physical assembly components are to appear in the assembled document.

75. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein step (a) comprises providing a set of available physical assembly components that include at least two of: a binding, a front cover, a back cover and a tab page.

76. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein step (a) comprises providing a set of available physically assembly components that include sheets of different media types, and wherein the user interface permits the user to substantially arbitrarily insert said sheets of said different media types into the assembled document.

77. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the user interface permits the user to specify custom printing on at least some of the physical assembly components.

78. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 77, wherein the custom-design information specifies a tab page and also specifies text to be included on a tab located on the tab page.

79. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the user interface permits the user to select an attribute for at least one of the selected physical assembly components.

80. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 79, wherein the attribute is color.

81. (New) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the user interface does not permit printing on at least some of the selected physical assembly components.

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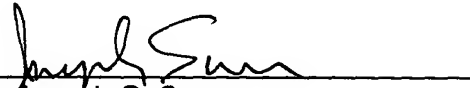
In view of the above amendments, claims 28-81 are now pending in the application, with claims 28 and 55 being the independent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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